

# ARE YOU READY FOR THE FAIR?



It is never too early to begin thinking about getting ready for a livestock event. In fact, if you wait until the last minute, you probably will miss a great opportunity to show your animal! Whether you are showing cattle, goats, sheep, swine or poultry, there are some very important items that need to be addressed well in advance of a livestock event. Aside from the general preparation of your animal: breaking it, working with it, grooming it, etc., you need to pay close attention to [RULES & REGULATIONS](#) and [ENTRY FORM](#) due dates. \*If it is required that you be a **BONAFIDE** active 4-H member, make sure you have [enrolled or re-enrolled](#) in 4-H for the current year.

Here are a few things to remember when getting ready for a livestock event:

- Work with your animal well in advance of the show. If you cannot control your animal, you may be asked to leave the ring. Practice, practice, practice! It will be worth it!
- Learn about your animal. You should have general knowledge such as: breed, age, weight, what kind of feed you use, protein and fat content, how long have you owned it, how much feed do you use and why, would you change anything about your animal?
- Make sure your animal's vaccinations are up-to-date. Remember, you will be traveling with your animal which can stress it and make it more susceptible to upper respiratory problems.
- Submit your **PROPERLY SIGNED** entry form(s) and fee(s) on time! If your 4-H Agent must sign it, don't wait until the last minute.
- If your animal is required to have a tattoo, make sure to take care of that well ahead of time. It will be checked at weigh-in against the information on your entry form. They must match!
- Registered and commercial heifers may be leased. A copy of the Official Lease Agreement will usually need to be submitted with the entry form.
- Pay close attention to ownership date requirements.
- **All** animals must have an [Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection \(OCVI\)](#) for travel. Additional requirements vary by species.
- Sheep and goats will need a [Scrapie Tag](#) . An Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection is required for all poultry and domestic birds for movement into Florida, but not specifically for exhibition. Poultry and domestic birds presented for exhibition without an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection will usually be inspected by a representative from the Florida Department of Agriculture, Division of Poultry.
- Swine entered into shows that are "non-terminal", will be required to have proof of negative blood tests for brucellosis and pseudorabies
- Make a check-list of items to take with you: (A show box or tote will come in handy.)
  1. Grooming utensils/items (scotch comb, brush, shampoo, blower, extension cord, clippers, scissors), water hose etc.
  2. Show equipment. Show stick, show halter/lead, tie out halter, lead ropes, neck tie, and **your** show clothes!
  3. Feed, hay, buckets, feed tubs (rubber feed tubs work well), extra rope (you never know!), pitch fork, square point shovel (easier to lift up manure from cement!), rake, wheel barrow, water hose and spray nozzle.
  4. General animal [first-aid kit](#). Antibiotic cream/salve, aspirin boluses and balling gun, blood stop powder, etc. Also, if you are showing animals in a bed made with sand, it is a good idea to disinfect the sand before you place your animal on the ring. A simple bleach mixture of 1 part bleach to 4 parts water, in a spray bottle will do. You may need to bring a fan also. The temperature may change quickly. It may be hot when you get there, and drop to freezing the next morning.
  5. Paperwork: A copy of the registration form you mailed/submitted. Depending on the species, your health papers (OCVI), your Scrapie tag information, swine blood test results, NPIP test, your lease document (if applicable), and your **ORIGINAL** breed registry papers (heifers only). Photocopies will usually not be accepted.
  6. **Your knowledge and good sportsmanship!** Remember, that if you work with your animal your hard work will pay off!



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